

**REMARKS****INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 23-25 have been amended. No new matter is submitted.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-25 are pending and under consideration.

**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW**

Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner before issuance of any further Office Actions.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102**

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Hayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,421,032. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of review and as an example, independent claim 1 sets forth a character processing apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network.

The character processing apparatus comprises a receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from an arbitrary one of the input terminal equipments, a code allocating section to allocate a code to the requested character information, a control section to control creation of character information, based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment, and a setting section to set created character information with respect to the allocated code, so *that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments.*

Thus, the presently claimed invention at least sets forth a set created character information being accessible from *each of a plurality of input terminal equipments*, which Hayama et al. fails to suggest or disclose.

The Office Action, on page 8, sets forth that "Hayama's apparatus may incorporate a PC or workstation that can not be enclosed in a case. The control block 300 of FIG. 11 having a component of a PC or workstation must therefore NOT be enclosed in a case. As a result, a

plurality of input terminal equipments of Hayama's apparatus must be connected to the control block via an interface bus or a network interface."

Thus, the Office Action asserts that a plurality of input terminal equipments of Hayama et al. must be connected to the control block via an interface bus or a network interface.

However, Hayama et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed plurality of input terminal equipments. The elements connected to the control block 300 in FIG. 11 include operating block 65 which is part of the stamp-making apparatus of Hayama et al. Furthermore, Hayama et al. fails to disclose or even suggest connecting the stamp-making apparatus of Hayama et al. to a network.

Further, the Office Action cites Hayama et al. in col. 27, lines 4-14, on page 7, beginning on line 18, which merely describes that the stamp-making apparatus of Hayama et al. may be formed by a PC or workstation. The corresponding passage fails to suggest or disclose a character processing apparatus that is connected to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network.

Thus, Hayama et al. at least fails to disclose the presently claimed character processing apparatus connected to a plurality of input terminal equipments and a character information creating terminal equipment via a network.

Lastly, the Office Action briefly notes that the previous amendments to the preamble of the claims were not persuasive and did not overcome the outstanding rejections. It is briefly noted if the preamble of a claim adds life to a claim or adds structural requirements/limitations to a claim, then features included in the preamble, including amended preambles, must be considered.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-25 be withdrawn and claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-25 be allowed.

## CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge

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the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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